

# 14 BODIES ARE FOUND ON 1100 LEVEL BY RESCUERS

LARGE CROWD OF SORROWING FRIENDS SURROUND THE BELMONT SHAFT ANXIOUSLY AWAITING LATEST FROM BELOW

## Nine Bodies Were Lying In a Pile at Bottom of the Shaft and Two Others a Short Distance From Them

## OTHER BODIES KNOWN TO STILL BE SOMEWHERE IN UNDERGROUND WORKS

When News Reached the Surface That Bodies Had Been Discovered, Volunteers Hurried to the 1100 Level Only to Find the Air Pipe Had Burst, and Had to Retreat and Make Repairs.

### LIST OF THE KNOWN DEAD

MIKE HANNIGAN, formerly of Goldfield, married  
WILLIAM MURPHY, also of Goldfield; home, Oakland.  
MANUEL CARDOZA, Tonopah; single.  
A. MARCIVITZ, Tonopah; Slav.  
JOHN PLAMANAZ, Tonopah; Slav.  
MIKE SCABALLY, Tonopah; Slav.  
NICK OELIVICH, Tonopah; Slav.  
BOZO BEGOVICH, Tonopah; Slav.  
SAM KONOVICH, Tonopah; Slav.  
GEORGE DONDERO, Tonopah; married.  
ROBERT FRAZIER, Tonopah; single.  
JOHN GILFOIL, Tonopah; single.  
CHRIS. MIKOVICH, Tonopah; Slav.  
MAX SLAMSEK, Slavonia, Tonopah.  
FRANK BURKE, former member First Montana regiment Spanish-American war; home, Billings, Montana.  
Probably four to eight more not identified.

2:30 o'clock—Five bodies have just been recovered from the depths of the Belmont shaft. Bled from the action of gas, steam and extreme heat, they are practically unrecognizable, and, until the dextrous ministrations of the undertaker are called into service, positive identification will be impossible.

At 1:50 o'clock three volunteers, Dan Harrington, Pat Murphy and Chief Cager Williams entered a cage at the Belmont and were dropped at lightning speed to the 1100-foot level. For ten minutes there was death silence, then came three bells, a silence, then one bell, indicating a desire for the cage to be hoisted to the surface.

In a few seconds the men stepped from the cage, white and shaking, but assuring the men at the shaft mouth that the air was nearly pure on the 1100-foot level.

A few moments later Sheriff Malley headed a party, consisting of himself, Dr. McDonald, R. J. King, C. M. Van Fleet, Mike Shea, J. A. Burgess and Chief Cager Williams, who were immediately dropped to the level where the bodies were.

Then came the "three-one" signal again, and the cage rose to the surface carrying with it the remains of what, but a few hours before, had been the flower of the Belmont force. Bled and minor injuries, probably caused by running into the rock walls of the tunnel while they were searching for the station, were apparent in every case.

Reverently the bodies were laid on the stretchers, covered with the snowy sheets, placed in receiving baskets and lowered on the incline railway to the waiting wagons. From that point they were conveyed to the morgue. Identification will be had before nightfall.

When the news reached the surface that the bodies had been discovered, a score of volunteers hurried to the 1100-foot level eager to assist in recovering the remains. Hardly had they entered the level when an air pipe broke, and but for the presence of mind of the leaders, who hurried back toward the Desert Queen workings, more might have perished.

Then began the work of repairing the air lines, and beginning anew the battle for sufficient fresh air to permit the rescuing party to send to the surface the sad remains of what the Belmont officials concede to be the finest force of miners in their employ.

At noon a lighted lantern was lowered on the cage and allowed to stand at the 1100-foot level for ten minutes. When the cage was raised the lantern was found to be burning still, but the body and chimney of the lantern were blackened and discolored as if dipped in acid.

Then came a call for two volunteers. A score again answered. Of their number was chosen "Big Bill" Ashburn and W. Noel, two men from the Cripple Creek district, credited with being expert miners and fire fighters. They were loaded into a wagon and hauled to the Desert Queen shaft, where, supplied with every possible safeguard, they were lowered to the 1100-foot level. Their instructions were to make their way to the foot of the Belmont shaft on that level and load the bodies on the cages. The distance they had to traverse is 2700 feet, but so heavy is the smoke and steam in the lower levels of the mine that it is not believed they will reach the bodies before 2:30 o'clock.

Around the top of the Belmont shaft is gathered a motley crowd of miners, morbidly curious residents, sullen Slav miners, ready at a moment's notice to break into open rebellion against the restraining lines. In the center stands Sheriff Malley and Assistant Chief of Police William Walker, surrounded by deputies, ready to quell any disturbance that may arise. On a hillside a quarter of

3:45 P. M.—THREE MORE BODIES HAVE JUST BEEN RECOVERED FROM THE SUMP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SHAFT.

a mile from the mine stands a group of six women. They are the wives and sisters of the entombed men. Of the number, but one is missing. She is the wife of Michael Hannigan, a former Goldfield man. Within a few days, if the All-Seeing One is good, she will clasp in her arms a tiny mite of humanity to console her for the loss of the husband and father who went to his death in a brave effort to protect the property of his employers.

William Murphy, another former Goldfield man, is also among the missing. His brother Thomas is now enroute from Oakland, Cal., for the purpose of receiving the remains of his brother.

The most gruesome portion of the long wait for the recovery of the bodies is the attitude taken by the Slavish and Hungarian miners. Groups gather in sheltered spots out of the reach of the blizzard which is raging here and mutter in low tones. Fists are shaken at the steel gallows frame over the shaft, and occasionally one, more excitable than the rest, shrieks some sentence in his native tongue. Each repetition of this causes fresh unrest, and there is more than a possibility that the fears of the peace officers and officials of the mine may be realized.

More particulars are being secured hourly as to the cage full of miners who left the bottom yesterday morning, and of whom but three reached the surface. No one doubts but that when the bottom of the shaft is reached, at least four and possibly seven or eight bodies will be found.

One of the engineers on duty yesterday is alleged to have stated early last night that he is certain he cut a man's body in two while hoisting the load. That this may be true is supported by the fact that a man's hat—not belonging to any one on the cage, was found when the few survivors reached the surface. There was blood on the edge of the cage—fresh blood—which was still dripping from its

At the shaft head at the Belmont a row of cheap wooden coffins, a blood-stained receiving baskets, and eight rough litters covered with snow-white sheets, have stood for hours waiting to receive the bodies of eleven men whose lives were snuffed yesterday because of the failure the asphyxiated men to enter the last cage, death had claimed them when the cage, with brave "Billy" Murphy—he had made two previous trips to save the lives of his fellow workmen—and on the third trial in the bowels of the earth, it is thought he stepped off the cage at the 1100-foot level—becoming weaker and weaker at each attempt at rescue—succumbed from the terrible smoke—fell dead across the bodies of his fellow miners and comrades below.

For thirty-two hours the fellow workers of the dead men have labored ceaselessly to reach the spot where the bodies lay. At 9 o'clock this morning several men volunteered to make exploration of the 1100-foot level, which had not been entered from the Belmont side.

Lying in a ghastly tangle of arms and legs and contorted bodies, the remains of nine men were discovered where they had fallen after a lifetime of waiting for the descend of the cage which would carry them to fresh, pure air—and freedom. The cage never came, and the noxious gases sweeping toward the shaft from the scene of the fire, the pitch impregnated smoke, worked death's toll to the fullest. One by one the men must have fallen unconscious, until nine bodies were piled in a sickening mass in the station, but two or three feet from the bar which, had it been raised for egress into the cage, would have meant life and thankfulness forever for escape from death.

Two, apparently the last to reach the station, must have staggered and fallen a few feet to the rear of their comrades. Such was the position of the bodies when found.

bottom when the cage stopped. The death mystery will take many hours in the solving, and no one can now predict whether the further remains will number one or twenty.

The herculean efforts of Mine Manager Bradshaw, Superintendent Fitzgerald and a force of forty workers—constantly relieved by new men, are an object lesson in the line of Nevada spirit. Few, if any, of the men or mine officials have had sixty minutes' sleep since the disaster. This afternoon an expert helmet man from San Francisco will reach Tonopah. He will go below immediately, search the workings carefully, and it is probable will settle positively what the exact loss of life is.

At the foot of the incline railway in the rear of the shaft stands eight wagons, waiting to carry the bodies to the morgue. The Presbyterian church has been tendered to Coroner Atkinson for use as an auxiliary morgue if necessary. If the bodies are all recovered today an inquest will be held tomorrow, which will doubtless settle the responsibility for the disaster.

### MISSION WORKER MARRIES A CHINESE

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 24.—H. Toy, aged 24, a Chinese merchant of this city and Port Angeles, Wash., and Mrs. Daisy Davis, aged 21, formerly a worker in the Methodist Episcopal Chinese mission in Portland, were married here yesterday by Rev. W. F. Osborne, pastor of the African Methodist church of this city. The young woman, who has been married before, met Toy at the Portland mission years ago

### Senator Nixon Wires Rescue Car Can be Sent Here

"Just saw newspaper report of catastrophe at Belmont mine. Have consulted with the director of bureau of mines at Washington and if the bureau can be of service he will direct that mine rescue car be sent to Tonopah immediately. Car now at Hot Springs, Wyoming. GEO. S. NIXON.

and recently renewed the acquaintance here.

Toy is wealthy, dresses in the height of fashion and is well educated. The couple will reside in Seattle. Mrs. Davis has lived in Iowa and San Francisco.

Reclamation work at Project Spur, about twenty miles from Hazen, has been commenced by a party of thirty men under the directions of United States Engineer Tillinghast.

United States Engineer Cole has charge of the project engineering work and at present is getting a more accurate topography of the country.

Work will be started on the dam as soon as spring opens up and it will be necessary to employ a large force of men in the spring to work on the dam.

It is estimated that it will take at least five years to build the dam and complete this work.

Location notices, both in book form or by the dozen. For sale at this office.

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